Rail link to Agartala

*505. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to extend the rail link to Agartala, Tripura; and

(b) if so, the details and cost of the scheme and by when it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) The survey of extension of the Railway line from Kumarghat to Agartala has been taken up. Further action would depend on the results of the survey and availability of resources in the coming years.

Completion of Bilaspur-Lal Kuan Section of Rampur-New Haldwani track

*508. SHRI RAM RATAN RAM:
SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bilaspur-Lal Kuan section of Rampur-New Haldwani track has been completed;

(b) if so, by when the section is likely to be opened for traffic; and

(c) by when the entire project is likely to be completed and at what cost together with the original estimated cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Construction of new line from Bilaspur to Lalkuan is targetted to be opened to traffic in 1993-94.

(c) In 1993-94. Original cost—Rs. 12.98 crores (1974-75 price). Latest cost—Rs. 49.54 crores (1991-92 price).

News-item captioned "Doctors can be injurious to Health"

*509. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news report published in the magazine 'LIFE' of the 'OBSERVER' New Delhi of 26th July, 1992 under the caption "Doctors can be injurious to health";

(b) whether Government have made any enquiry into the reports about the negligence of doctors in carrying out operations on patients without proper investigations;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) what steps Government propose to take against those involved in these cases; and

(e) the manner in which Government propose to compensate the families of the patients who lost their lives or have become handicapped due otthe negligence of doctors?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR): (a) to (e) The news item titled 'Doctors can be injurious to health' refers inter-alia to four specific cases which occured in different hospitals in Bombay from 1984 onwards. The same report has also indicated that three of the case are sub-judice while in the fourth case the Maharashtra State Consumer Forum have provided compensation to the patient.

The question of granting compensation to victims or the families of patients who suffer due to the alleged negligence of medical practitioners is being addressed by the Civil Courts. Compensation as decided by the Courts is paid in terms of the orders passed. However, where cases of negligence of Government doc-